

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY - RECOMMENDATION

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)

Subregion: CENTRAL **County:** EL DORADO

Applicant: CITY of PLACERVILLE

Project Title: HANGTOWN CREEK COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED PLAN

Application Number: SNC 070125

PROJECT SCOPE

This project will assist with the development of the flood management element for the Hangtown Creek Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. This phase of the project would develop the system design for flood management by providing aerial photography and modeling tools.

Specific deliverables would include:

- Aerial photography to cover Hangtown Creek watershed
- Flood Models to design floodwater management strategies.

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the SNC staff to fund a portion of the Hangtown Creek Comprehensive Watershed Plan's flood management element, in the amount of \$130,635. Once the flood management element is finished, the city can move forward on completing the overall Comprehensive plan as part of an integrated regional watershed management planning effort for Hangtown Creek, a tributary to the American River. Completion of the Comprehensive plan will allow the city to move into the implementation phase, resulting in water conservation, water efficiency and better watershed management for Hangtown Creek and surrounding areas.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Placerville Downtown Association
Placerville Clothing Company
El Dorado County & Georgetown Divide RCD
Community Pride
Hangtown Creek Stewardship Committee
American River Conservancy

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Aerial Photography Acquisition	September 2008
Flood Models	November 2008

Progress Report	December 2008
Flood Management Strategy	May 2009
FINAL REPORT	June 2009

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Aerial Photography	\$90,000
Flood Models	40,635
GRAND TOTAL	\$130,635

Project Proposal

A. LAND WATER BENEFITS

The overall benefits to **water quality, riparian habitat, and flood control and storm water management** within the Hangtown Creek watershed, shown on the attached map, are significant with the completion of the watershed plan and subsequent implementation of the recommendation in the plan. The Tasks described in the project summary will provide the basis that allows for the ongoing management and stewardship of the Hangtown Creek watershed. As identified in the draft Hangtown Creek Watershed Plan (attached in electronic version only), the proposed strategy for providing comprehensive flood protection within the watershed is to recognize the constrained nature of the Creek channel within the central area of the City of Placerville (City), and to utilize a series of ponds and detention basins throughout the watershed that would contain storm water runoff during storm events, and release it slowly into the creek system at a rate that can be contained within the existing creek channel. The use of ponds and detention basins would provide the opportunity for the filtering of storm water to remove sediments and other pollutants, it would increase the opportunity for storm water infiltration to improve groundwater recharge, it would provide opportunity for seasonal wetland expansion, improve wildlife habitat opportunities, and maintain areas of open space within the Hangtown Creek watershed.

Hangtown Creek is tributary to the South Fork of the American River, which flows into the Folsom Reservoir. Folsom is a drinking water source for thousands of people in the adjacent foothill region and the greater Sacramento Valley. The existence of the City trunk sewer system within the creek channel itself, and the aging and substandard sewer lift stations within the watershed constitute an ongoing and serious threat to **water quality** within the Hangtown Creek and downstream watersheds. Moving the sewerline out of the creek channel is part of the City's long term vision, and upgrading or eliminating the sewer lift stations will minimize the risk of contamination, protect drink water supplies, and improve water quality for other beneficial uses such as freshwater habitat. The relocated trunk sewer lines and the lift station upgrades will incorporate improved materials and construction methods that will increase the reliability, and overall capacity of the system. It will also significantly reduce the potential for I/I in the system; something that is currently a very serious problem for the City at it's wastewater treatment plant.

Ongoing and watershed plan recommended **restoration, habitat improvement**, and channel maintenance will provide a direct and immediate benefit to the watershed from wildlife, aesthetic, and storm drainage capacity perspectives. The selective thinning of existing vegetation and the removal of exotic and invasive plant species will have an overall beneficial effect on the native plants and animals that live within the Creek's riparian area. This activity will also serve to increase the overall channel capacity, and when coupled with the removal of the trunk sewer lines from the creek channel, significant enhancements will result to all aspects of the channel environment.

A comprehensive watershed management plan that addresses stormwater management and flood control, creek and habitat restoration, public access, and water quality will also provide a blueprint and guidance for future **land use** decisions made by the City.

B. SNC PROGRAM GOALS: